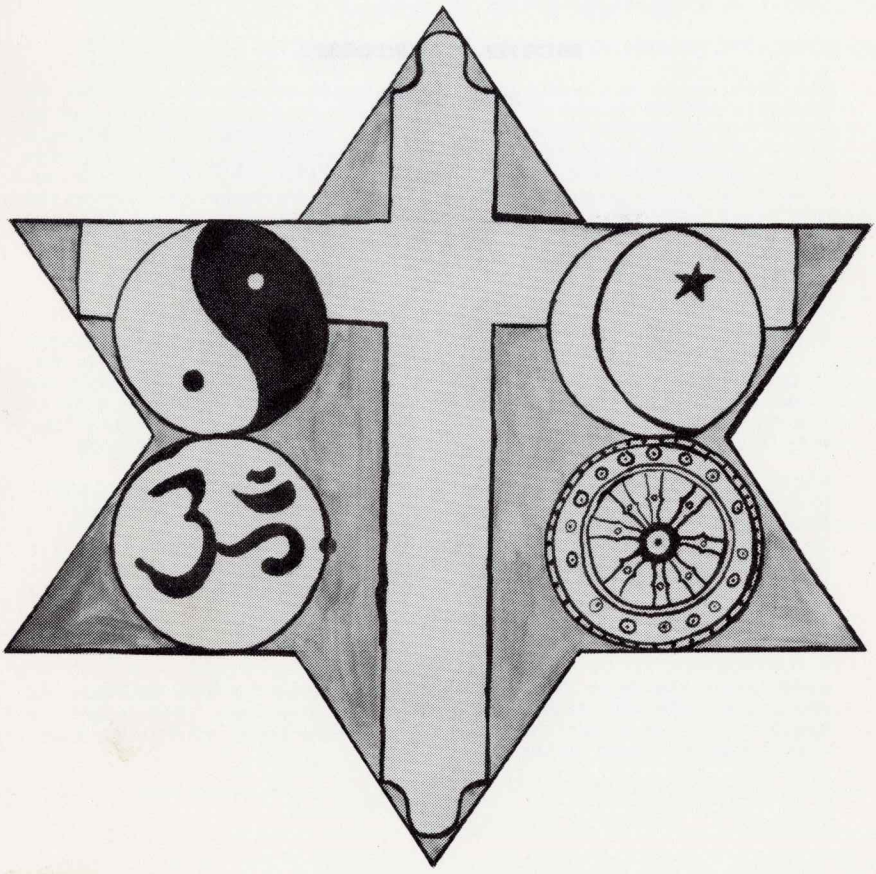
# CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

## ARTS AND SCIENCE
## **RELIGION**



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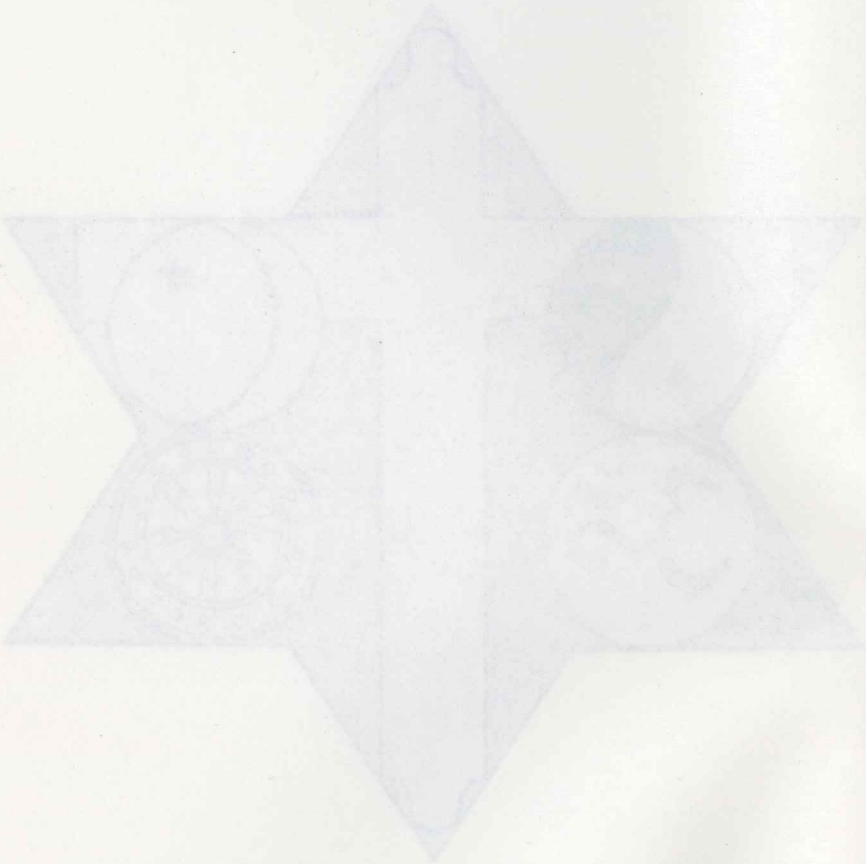

# DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

## COURSE GUIDE

## 1985-86

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DEPARTMENT

Many of the institutions, mores and values of modern societies are grounded in religious traditions of the world. Through religions, humans have variously attempted to connect their life patterns with some ultimate view of reality. To understand diverse cultures of the world, it is important to try to comprehend the religious traditions which inform them.

The Department of Religion offers a variety of courses in the areas of the world religions, ethical issues and religions and cultures. We offer introductory courses in World Religions, the History of Judaism and Understanding Religion. We also have courses that focus on particular religious traditions (Modern Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism) and on particular topics (Religion and Art in China and Japan, Major Psychological Theories of Religion, Religion and Healing, Women and Religion).

In addition to the undergraduate majors and honours programs in Religion and in Judaic Studies, and joint majors and honours programs, the Department of Religion offers several graduate programs: a Diploma in Theological, Religious and Ethical Studies (together with the Philosophy and Theology Departments), an M.A. in the History and Philosophy of Religion, an M.A. in Judaic Studies, and a Ph.D in Religion in which students focus either on Comparative Ethics or Judaism.

## KNOWLEDGE OF TWO MAJOR RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

The Department believes that every Major or Honours student in Religion should possess, at time of graduation, a knowledge of at least two major religious traditions. For example, the student who is pursuing a Major in Juadic Studies should take at least one or two courses in a religious tradition other than Judaism. This basic principle reinforces the emphasis upon the centrality of the discipline of the History of Religions. A particular religious tradition can be best understood in the context of the general religious history of mankind.

## EMOTIONAL FUNCTION

University education has an important social function independent of the relation of particular subjects to the job market. In the complex and changing culture of our society, it is often no longer possible or necessary to tie at least the first university degree to vocational training. The Department of Religion then, sees its prime function in this broader context of education.

Vocationally, however, a Major or Honours in Religion could prepare the undergraduate for further education leading to teaching in religion at the high school, CEGEP or university level. A bachelors degree in Religion could also be of benefit for undergraduates who plan careers in social work, law, civil service and other fields for which a Humanities education is needed.

## THE BOYD SINYARD AWARD

Each year the Boyd Sinyard award is given to the student in Religion with the highest grade-point average. The award is named after the first chairman of the Department of Religion at Sir George Williams University.

## THE JANIE COOPER MEMORIAL LECTURE IN JUDAIC STUDIES

Each year a prominent scholar in Judaic Studies comes to Concordia to deliver a lecture. The lectureship was endowed in memory of a former Judaic Studies at Concordia by her husband, Howard Cooper.

## FACULTY

A list of the full-time faculty follows below. All degrees from universities and/or schools of advanced studies that represent the best academic centres for the study of religion in Canada, the United States, Great Britain and Europe. Several have published books that have made a contribution to their particular fields of study; all have published in learned journals and have given papers at learned societies. They have also won the reputation among their students for being good teachers, concerned about the quality of instruction at Concordia University, as well as for being a faculty that is "available" and is committed to the development of a more meaningful student life.

### FULL TIME FACULTY

**Professors**

CharlesDavis, S.T.L. (Gregorian, Rome)
Michel Despland, Th.D. (Harvard)
Sheila McDonough, Ph.D. (McGill)

**Chairman**

Jack Lightstone, Ph.D. (Brown)

**Associate Professors**

Frederick Bird, Ph.D. (Graduate Theological Union)
David Miller, Ph.D. (Harvard)
Michael Oppenheim Ph.D. (University of California, Santa Barbara)
John Rossner, Ph.D. (Heed)

**Assistant Professors**

Ira Robinson, Ph.D. (Harvard)
Lynn Teskey, D.Phil. (Oxford)

**Lecturers**

N. Joseph
H. Joseph
M. Saunders-Oppenheim

**Adjunct Associate Professors**

J.B. Lightman
D. Rome

**Adviser**

J. Rossner - Undergraduate Religion and Judaic Studies (879 - 4194)

Religion C211/3 -AA (6 credits) Mon. 18:05-20:10
UNDERSTANDING RELIGION

Martha Saunders-Oppenheim,
Lecturer

This introductory course in religion will examine various aspects of religious life such as myth and symbol, ritual, religious law, prayer and mystical experience, social responsibility, self-denial and asceticism. The primary source materials for studying the religious life will be autobiographies of religious people from different traditions. These will be analyzed according to social-scientific models of interpreting religious experience, with particular emphasis on psychological theories of religious experience. Some focal points of this study will be:

(a) ways in which being religious differentiates some women and men from others
(b) differences among the classical interpretations of religious experience
(c) "self-concepts" which seem to dominate in selected personal documents
(d) the relationship between religious experience and social change
(e) the relationship between religious experience and psychological "abnormality"
(f) ways in which models of religious formation both differ and coalesce in eastern and western religious traditions

Requirements

It is essential that students follow the readings. Class discussion will be the primary method of investigation and requires the active participation of all. Term paper and examinations to be announced.

Book List

F. Streng, Understanding Religious Life
M. Ghandi, Autobiography
Erik Erikson, Ghandhi's Truth
St. Teresa of Avila, The Life of Teresa of Jesus
Malcolm X, Autobiography
Dorothy Day, The Long Loneliness

Additional xeroxed autobiographical selections to be assigned.

Religion C213/3 -AA (6 credits) Thurs. 18:05-20:10
MAJOR RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF THE WORLD

Professor D. Miller

An introduction to the variety of forms that human religious life has taken from the stone age to the present. The major traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam will be considered as well as more ancient cultures. The aim is to grasp something of the patterns and tensions characteristic of religious life.

Requirements:

Two research papers and two exams.

Book List

Robert Elwood, Many Peoples, Many Faiths

Religion C222/3 -ZA (6 credits) Wed. 18:30-20:30
INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM: AN HISTORICAL SURVEY OF JUDAISM FROM THE BIBLICAL AGE TO THE MODERN PERIOD SBC

Professor Howard Joseph

Does an historical survey of the religion of the Jewish people allow us to speak of a phenomenon called "Judaism" or must we rather talk of several "Judaisms?" This is the central problem addressed in the course. In our attempt to answer the question, we will examine the history and thought of the Jews from Bibical to modern times. We will be interested in observing both continuities and new developments in Jewish history. We will likewise pay close attention to developments in non-Judaic civilizations which paralleled developments in contemporary Judaism or caused it to respond in new directions.

Requirements:

1. Active participation in class discussions
2. Two short papers (5-10 pages) - one each term
3. Two take-home examinations - one each term

Book List:

The following textbooks will be used extensively in the course and should be purchased.

J. Goldin (ed.), The Jewish Expression (Yale U. Press)
J. Neusner (ed.), Understanding Rabbinic Judaism (KTAV)
R. Seltzer, Jewish People, Jewish Thought (MacMillan)
Other readings will be made available in the Norris Library Reserves or in xerox form.

Religion A298/2 -A (3 credits) WF. 10:15-11:30
SPECIAL TOPIC:
RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AMERICA

Professor Sheila McDonough

A study of the conflicts and controversies engendered in contemporary political life by diverse religious attitudes and passions on issues such as Church/state relations, abortion, school prayer, Darwinism, economic justice, peace, Biblical authority, cultural pluralism, family patterns, and the status of women. The pressures exerted by fundamentalist and liberal religious groups will be studied.

Book List:

Religion and American Spirituality in a Secular Age, Mary Douglas and Steven Tipton (eds.), (Beacon, 1982).
Religious Issues in American History, E.S. Gaustad, (ed.), (Harper, 1968).

Religion A299/3 - AA (6 credits) Tue. 18:05-20:10
SPECIAL SUBJECT: RELIGION AND SOCIETY IN CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

Professor Frederick Bird

This course will examine the contributions of five authors to sociological thought. These authors are Karl Marx, Alexis de Tocqueville, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim and Sigmund Freud. The writings of these authors will be analyzed in relation to their historical setting and in relation to their contemporary

relevance. The work of several social analysts, like Hobbes, Smith, Malthus, Simmel, Sumner and Schutz will be discussed briefly in passing. Special attention will be paid to contributions of these authors to the understanding of religions as social phenomena.

Requirements:

Two term paper essays; two short quizes; one take home exam.

Book List:

David McClelland, ed. The Writings of Karl Marx

Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America

Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

Emile Durkheim, Suicide

Sigmund Freud, New Introductory Lectures in Psychoanalysis

Sigmund Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents

Religion C301/2 -AA (3 credits) Wed. 16:05-17:55
THE HEBREW BIBLE

Professor Jack Lightstone

The Hebrew Bible represents a 'party' document; that is, it speaks for the policies and world-view of a particular group among the Ancient Israelites, offering its ideology against competing conceptions and definitions. This course will introduce students to the Scriptures of Ancient Judaism; we locate its content and the literary processes which produced the Bible within the social and historical contexts of Ancient Israelite culture. Of interest too will be the role these documents themselves played in the various definitions and refefinitions of the Israelite world during this period.

Requirements:

In addition to participating in class and completion of assigned readings, students will submit (take-home) mid-term and final examinations.

Book List:

The Oxford Annotated Bible, with Apocrypha (if no Bible already is owned)
J. Kenneth Kuntz, People of Ancient Israel, (N.Y.: Harper and Row, 1974)

Religion C302/4 -AA (3 credi s) Wed. 16:05-17:55
THE NEW TESTAMENT

Professor Frederick Bird

This course will provide students with an introduction to the principal works of the New Testament. Students will be introduced to the historical setting and background of early Christianity. The course will analyze the major works of the New Testament from a historical perspective, roughly in relation to the order in which modern scholars judge that they were originally written.

We will read the principal books of the New Testament in conjunction with: (1) a systematic and topically sequential reading of the textbook; and, (2) in-class lectures, questions, and exegesis of selected sections of the New Testament books.

Requirements:

Regular class attendance and participation, performance of assigned readings from the New Testament and the textbook. One mid-term quiz and a final take-home examination.

Book List:

The New Testament: any modern translation

The New Testament: An Introduction, Norman Perrin and Dennis Duling, second edition.

Religion C311/3 -A M.W. 13:15-14:30
THE RELIGION OF SOUTH ASIA

Professor Lynn Teskey

An examination of the religions of India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Though the focus is on indigenous systems and this includes the beliefs and practices of Hindu, Jaina, Buddhist, Sikh and tribal populations. Attention is also given to the presence of Islam and Christianity in the Sub-continent.

Requirements

Two essays and two take home exams.

Book List

Fenton, J.Y., Hein, N., Reynolds, F.E. Moder, A, and Neilson, N.C., Religion of Asia
Tyler, Stephen, India: An Anthropological Approach
Miller, David, The Monks and Monasteries of Bhubaneswar
Babb, Laurence, The Divine Hierarchy
Gombrich, Richard, Precept and Practice

Religion C317/2 -A (3 credits) W.F. 11:45-13:00
TIBETAN AND JAPANESE RELIGIOUS THOUGHT
AND INSTITUTIONS

Professor David Miller

This is an examination of the development of new religious forms from the interaction between primitive indigenous beliefs and imported great traditions.

Japan and Tibet both offer excellent examples of this process. Prior to the seventh century A.D. both areas lacked centralized government and literate culture. When they became aware of their cultural inferiority both began to import Buddhist cultures - Japan from China, and Tibet, from both China and India. We will study the interactions between these traditions and indigenous religions. Particular attention will be devoted to the role of the indigenous ideas and practices as a stimulus to continuing developments within the Buddhist tradition.

Book List

Reading may be drawn from a variety of sources including:

J.H. Kamstra, Encounter or Syncretism
Joseph M. Kitagawa, Religion in Japanese History
Lobsang P. Lhalungpa, The Life of Milarepa
Robert B. Ekvall, Religious Observances in Tibet
David L. Snellgrove, The Nine Ways of Bon
Eva M. Dargyay, The Rise of Esoteric Buddhism in Tibet

Religion C319/4 -A (3 credits) W.F. 11:45-13:00
MODERN ISLAM

Professor Sheila McDonough

A study of the processes of change at work in Muslim societies. The cases of Pakistan, India, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia and Libya will be considered.

Book List

John Esposito (ed.), Islam in Transition

Religion C327/4 -ZA (3 credits) Tue. 20:30-22:30
MEDIEVAL JEWISH THOUGHT AND INSTITUTIONS SBC

Professor to be announced

In this course, we will explore the social, religious and intellectual history of the Jews in the Middle Ages. The focus of this course will be the intellectual and spiritual achievements of the Jews in the medieval period, a time of struggle, growth and creativity for the Jewish people.

Requirements:

To be announced at the first class meeting

Book List:

Jacob R. Marcus, The Jew in the Medieval World
Other texts to be announced at first class meeting

Religion C333/2 -AA (3 Credits) TTh. 10:15-11:30.
WOMEN AND RELIGION I

Norma Joseph, Lecturer

This course will outline the complex interrelationship between religion and sexuality. In analyzing the image of women and their role in the religious system, we will concentrate on tribal and pre-industrial societies. Topics such as the place and function of women in myth and ritual, the matriarchy debate and rites of passage , will be discussed.

Requirements:

One research paper
One exam

Book List:

Nancy Falk and Rita M. Gross (eds.), Unspoken Worlds: Women's Religious lives in Non-Western Cultures.
Carol Christ and Judith Plaskow (eds.), Womanspirit Rising: A Feminist Reader in Religion

Religion C334/4 -A (3 credits) TTh. 10:15-11:30
WOMEN AND RELIGION II

Martha Saunders-Oppenheim, Lecturer

The focus of the course will be on women in Judaism and Christianity, with 3 weeks on women in Biblical Judaism and the remainder of the course on women in Christianity. Woman's nature and roles according to each of these two traditions will be examined from both theological and historical perspectives. Topics to be discussed will include women in the Bible, marriage, and sexuality, ordination of women to the ministry, and contemporary feminist theology.

Requirements:

Two short papers and a final take-home examination.

Book List

Rosemary Ruether, Religion and Sexism
R. Ruether and E. McLaughlin, (eds.), Women of Spirit

Religion C352/4 -ZA (3 credits) Wed. 20:30-22:30
SEPHARDIC JUDAISM SBC

Professor Howard Joseph

This course will present a critical analysis of the religious and cultural traditions peculiar to Sephardic Jews.

Requirements:

1. Mid-term take home examination
2. Final take-home examination

Book List

S.D. Goitein, Jews and Arabs
Y. Baer, A History of The Jews in Christian Spain
Others to be announced at the first class

Religion C353/2 -ZA (3 credits) Wed. 20:30-22:30
THE HISTORICAL ENCOUNTER BETWEEN SBC
JUDAISM AND CHIRSTIANITY

Professor Howard Joseph

The course will examine the origin of Christianity as a phenomenon within Judaism of the first century c.e. and trace its subsequent separation from and relation to Judaism through and until today. The emphasis will be on the issues that arose as part of the process of mutual self-understanding and polemics between the two traditions from the New Testament through post-Holocaust writings.

Requirements:

Careful study of the assigned readings is an absolute necessity to enable proper class participation. A research paper on a related topic will be due in April. Suggested topics will be offered.

Book List:

The New Testament - any edition
F.E. Talmage, (ed.), Disputation and Dialogue: Readings in the Jewish-Christian Encounter, Ktav Publishing

Religion 355/2 -AA (3 credits) Th. 16:05-17:55
MODERN JEWISH IDENTITY:
AMERICA AND ISRAEL

Professor Michael Oppenheim

The issues of Jewish identity focuses on the question "What does it mean to be a Jew?" Both the issue and the question are fundamentally modern. They arose at the beginning of the Emancipation, that is, the entry of Jews into the social, political, and intellectual life of Europe at the end of the Eighteenth century. In this course we will examine the most recent attempts of Jews to address the issue of Jewish identity. We will begin by exploring the background of this issue, that is the reasons it arose, some of the important early models of Jewish identity, the intellectual trends that influenced Jews, and the events that shaped Jewish self-understanding.

The ways that contemporary Jews understand themselves as Jews and express their Jewishness will be investigated by reading historical, sociological, and philosophical essays. Our investigation will focus on three topics: Zionism and the State of Israel, North America and the Challenges of Modernity, and the Meaning of the Holocaust for Jewish Belief.

Course Requirements

It is essential that students follow the readings for each week which are indicated on the syllabus. Class discussion will be the primary method of investigation and significant progress will be made through the active participation of all. There will be a term paper and a take-home final examination at the end of the term. For the term paper students will be asked to explore one of the issues or problems that relate to the three major topics of the course. The paper should be approximately eight to twelve typed pages, and a list of suggested subjects as well as a more detailed statement of the assignment will be handed out at a later time. The final grade will be determined by adding together the grades of the paper (40%), the exam (40%), and class participation (20%).

Book List:

Liebman and Don-Yehiya, Civil Religion in Israel
Neusner, Stranger at Home
Xeroxed articles listed on the weekly syllabus

Religion C357/4 -ZA (3 credits) Th. 18:30-20:30
HOLOCAUST: HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES SBC

Professor A. Eliashiv

This course will examine the historical circumstances that made possible the systematic destruction of European Jewry in the years 1933-45 as well as the process of destruction and the Jewish and World responses to that destruction. Some topics include: genocide, ghettos, resistance, heroism, and moral issues.

Requirements:

To be announced at first class.

Book List:

To be announced at first class.

Religion C371/2 -AA (3 credits) Tue. 18:05-20:10
RELIGION AND HEALING

Professor John Rossner

An examination of the interaction between religious conceptions and practices on the one hand and healing arts on the other. The course considers such phenomena as: shamanism; healing and Christian shrines; native healing rites, folk medicine of the third world, modern spiritual healing groups; the contemporary dialogue between established forms of medicine, psychiatry and religion in the 20th century.

Requirements:

Regular class attendance and participation, suggested readings, one term research project and one final exam.

Book List:

The following selected bibliography represents recommended reading, but not required texts:
Walter Addison Jayne, M.D. Healing Gods of Ancient Civilization
George W. Meek, Healers and The Healing Process
Stanley R. Dean, M.D., Psychiatry and Mysticism
Harry Edwards, The Healing Intelligence
Nicholas Regush, Psi Healing
Ambrose & Olga Worral, The Miracle Healers
Norman Shealey, M.D., Occult Medicine Can Save Your Life

Religion C377/4 -AA (3 credits) Tue. 18:05-20:10
RELIGION AND OCCULT IDEAS IN MODERN HISTORY

Professor John Rossner

An examination of the basic ideas and cultural impact of occult traditions in the modern period from the so-called "Rosicrucian Enlightenment" in the 16th and 17th centuries, as described by Frances Yates, to the 19th and 20th century resurgence of occult themes in what Robert Elwood has called "an alternative reality tradition in the West".

Requirements:

Regular class attendance and participation, suggested readings, one term research project and one final exam.

Book List:

The following selected bibliography represents recommended reading, but not required texts:
Colin Wilson, The Occult: A History
Alta J. La Dage, Occult Psychology
Dane Rudhyar, Occult Preparations for a New Age
H. Blavatsky, An Abridgement of The Secret Doctrine
Francis Yates, The Rosicrucian Enlightenment
Geddes McGreggor, Gnosis: A Renaissance in Christian Humanism
R. Elwood, Jr., Religious and Spiritual Groups in Modern America

Reli C393/2 - A TTh 13:15-14:30
SPECIAL TOPIC: FAITH AND DOUBT
IN VICTORIAN LITERATURE

Professor Charles Davis

Almost all Victorian literature touches upon religious faith, even when that is not the chief topic. For the greater part of the Victorian era, the utilitarian tradition, which was the Victorian form of rationalism, held the centre of the cultural stage. But it was attacked from a variety of directions, and in those attacks the interpretation and validity of the traditional Christian faith was at issue. The purpose of the course is to study the reflection in literature of the struggle between faith and doubt that marked the Victorian mind.

Requirements:

One term paper and one take-home exam.

Book List:

The course will study both familiar and less familiar literary works, some briefly, some in detail. Here is a list, though subject to alteration according to the availability of some items:
Thomas Carlyle, Sartor Resartus, (1883)
Charlotte Bronte, Jane Eyre, (1847)
J.H. Newman, Apologia Pro Vita Sua, (1864)
Charles Dickens, Our Mutual Friend, (1864-5)
Benjamin Disraeli, Lothair, (1870)
George Eliot, Middlemarch, (1871-2)
Samuel Butler, The Fair Haven, (1873)
W.H. Mallock, A Romance of the Nineteenth Century, (1881)
Walter Pater, Marius the Epicurean, (1885)
Mrs. Humphry Ward, Robert Elsmere, (1888)
And selected poems by Tennyson, Robert Browning, Matthew Arnold and Hopkins

Religion 393/2 -ZA (3 credits) Tue. 18:30-20:30
SPECIAL TOPIC: WOMEN IN JEWISH HISTORY

Norma Joseph, Lecturer

Many women have played an important and even significant role in the annals of Jewish history. Their thoughts, deeds and accomplishments will be the essence of this course. It will also analyze the variety of roles and statuses of Jewish women in different historical periods. Beginning with Biblical history, the course will cover the beginnings of the modern era in Europe. (North American history will not be covered.)

Requirements:

One term paper and one final exam.

Book List:

S. Henry & E. Taitz, eds., Written Out of History.
Other readings to be announced in class.

Religion C393/4 -BB (3 credits) WF. 10:15-11:30
SPECIAL TOPIC: POLITICS AND RELIGION IN
THE ISLAMIC WORLD AND IN SOUTH ASIA

Professor Sheila McDonough

A study of the conflicts and controversies engendered in contemporary political life by diverse religious attitudes and passions on issues such as secularism, cultural pluralism, holy war, non-violence, state and economics, changes in family patterns, the status of women, religious education, and resistance to foreign life-styles. The pressures exerted by fundamentalist and liberal religious groups will be studied.

Book List:

Possible textbooks:
Voices of Resurgent Islam, (ed.), John Esposito (OUP, 1983)
Non-Violent Resistance, M. Gandhi, (Schocken, 1961)

Religion C394/2 -ZA (3 credits) Thurs. 18:30-20:30
SPECIAL TOPIC: TRADITION, CHANGE AND
CONFLICT AS REFLECTED IN JUDAIC
BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

This course examines Medieval Jewish biblical commentaries and interpretation in light of the tension between tradition and change and among competing Judaic groups. Through the interpretation of scripture persons and individuals invested their ideas and policies with the authority of ancient documents believed to be revelation. Thus biblical interpretation is understood in its social-historical context.

Religion C396/2 -ZA (3 credits) Thurs. 20:30-22:30
SPECIAL TOPIC: JEWISH MESSIANISM

Throughout Medieval Judaism there existed a tension between the maintenance of a stable "world" via the repetition of timeless ritual patterns on the one hand, and the expectations on the other of a radical and disruptive change in the course of history brought on by the intervention of God via the Messiah. This course examines Jewish messianism in the middle ages and early modern period in light of this tension. Of special concern are the social dynamics underlying these tensions and developments.

Religion C396/4 -AA (3 credits) Mon. 16:05-17:55
SPECIAL TOPIC: MYSTICISM, MAGIC AND
RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY IN MEDIEVAL JUDAISM

Mysticism usually viewed as the pursuit of individuals seeking personal enlightenment and direct experience of the divine. This course will view Medieval Jewish Mysticism in its social dimension. That is, we ask, "what functions and roles did Jewish mystics assume for themselves in the Jewish community, and how did Jewish mystics assume for themselves in the Jewish community, and how did their claims to special knowledge and mystical prowess serve to legitimate these roles.

Religion C397/4 -AA (3 credits) Thurs. 16:05-17:55
SPECIAL TOPIC:
RELIGION AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Professor Michael Oppenheim

This course will explore the many dimensions of what has been described as the issue of religion and state in Israel. Both the historical development of the issue of religion and state in Israel as well as the major contours of the contemporary debate concerning this issue are the two foci of the seminar. In order to understand the historical development we will investigate the ideological factions and tensions within the Zionist movement, the development of this issue during the period of the Yishuv, the current religious, social and political context for the issue, and the relationship between this problem and contemporary expressions of Israeli and Jewish identity. The essays of a number of religious thinkers and philosophers will be examined in order to gain insight into the current debate and various standpoints. The course will conclude with a general discussion of the state of Israel as an attempt to provide Jews with the foundations for authenticially Jewish ways of living, that is, with the question of the "Jewish" character of the state.

Requirements:

The course syllabus indicates the required and suggested readings for each week. It is essential that students follow the readings. Class discussion will be the primary method of investigation and significant progress will be made only through the active participation of all. The term paper should be around seven pages and a more complete description of the nature of the term paper will be given out in the next week. The take-home final exam will consist of a number of essay questions and it will be due at the end of the term. The final grade will be determined by adding together the grades for class participation (20%), the term paper (40%), and the final exam (40%).

Book List:

Abramov, Perpetual Dilemma
Liebman and Don-Yehiya, Religion and Politics in Israel
Oz, In the Land of Israel
Additional xeroxed readings

Religion A398/2 -AA (3 credits) Wed. 18:05-20:10
SPECIAL TOPIC: PSYCHOLOGY AND MYSTICISM

Laurence Nixon, Lecturer

The course will review various psychological (physiological, behavioral, psychoanalytic, humanistic, transpersonal) explanations of mystical experiences. The following will also be considered: (1) some of the practices (e.g., meditation) that seem to facilitate such experiences; (2) the role of mystical experiences in personality transformation; (3) the personality of the mature mystic; and (4) the role of temperament, early childhood experience and adolescent environment in the predisposition towards mysticicism.

Requirements:

One term paper and one final exam

Book List:

Photocopies of relevant articles will be provided at cost.

The following books, though not required, contain background information:

Arasteh, A. Reza, Growth to Self-hood: The Sufi Contribution
Coster, Geraldine, Yoga and Western Psychology
Hoffman, Edward, The Way of Splendor: Jewish Mysticism and Modern Psychology
Johansson, Rune E.A., The Psychology of Nirvana
Leuba, James H., The Psychology of Religious Mysticism
Maslow, Abraham H., Religions, Values & Peak-Experiences
Naranjo, Claudio & Ornstein, Robert E., On the Psychology of Meditation
Tart, Charles T., (ed.), Transpersonal Psychologies
White, John (ed.), The Highest State of Consciousness

Religion B398/2 -A (3 credits) TTh. 11:45-13:00
SPECIAL TOPIC:
WOMEN AND THE CRITIQUE OF RELIGION

Martha Saunders-Oppenheim, Lecturer

This advanced course in women and religion will involve an in-depth consideration of the contemporary feminist critique in religion, with emphasis on the Christian tradition. Some of the issues to be addressed will be the following: (1) the development of feminist principles for interpreting the Bible; (2) models for leadership roles for women within religious institutions and movements today; (3) the feminist critique of ethics and women's experience of moral dilemmas; (4) the development of women's spirituality within and outside traditional religious institutions.

The course will be conducted as a seminar, and emphasis will be on student participation. There will be an effort to obtain occasional guest speakers, in particular, women who are religious leaders or specialists from Montreal area churches.

This is an advanced course that will presuppose some background preparation, such as Rel 333 and 334, or several courses in either women's studies, religion, or theological studies. If in doubt consult the instructor.

Requirements:

One term paper, to be an in-depth examination of one of the issues raised in the course.
A final take-home essay examination.

Book List:

Elizabeth Schussler-Fiorenza, In Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins
Beverly W. Harrison, Our Right to Choose: Toward a New Ethic of Abortion
Rosemary R. Reuther, Sexism and God-Talk: Toward a Feminist Theology

Religion D398/4 -AA (3 credits) Wed. 18:05-20:10
SPECIAL TOPIC:
RELIGIOUS CONSCIOUSNESS AND POLITICAL LIBERATION

Marsha Hewitt, Lecturer

In this course we will explore the relationship between religion and politics from the point of view of Latin American Liberation Theology. The challenge of liberation theology is twofold: on the one hand it poses a powerful "Christian-ideology critique" of traditional theological methodology. On the other hand it offers a new understanding of the possibility of ethics in politics. In rejecting the dualistic "nature-supernature" split which has been an important concept in traditional theology, liberation theology develops the dialectical linkages between history and salvation based upon the assumption that God is encountered in human history.

From here, it will be possible to ask questions about the impact of liberation theology on Canada and its contribution to new Christian perspectives on various social problems. We will also examine how liberation theology compares and contrasts with Canadian Social Gospel history.

Requirements:

To be announced

Book List:

To be announced

Religion E398/4 -A (3 credits) TTh. 11:45-13:00
SPECIAL TOPIC: WOMEN AND JUDAISM -
THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF RELIGION

Norma Joseph, Lecturer

This course will analyze the position of women in Judaism according to its principles and practices. By separating the issues and examining the established ritual and ceremonies as well as the institutional roles, we will try to locate the "proper" place of women, and the possibilities for a feminist confrontation and/or compromise within tradition.

Requirements:

One paper and one exam.

Book List

Women and Jewish Law, J. Binale
The Jewish Woman, E. Kolton
On Women and Judaism, B. Greenberg

Religion F,98/4 -ZA (3 credits) Tue. 18:30-20:30
SPECIAL TOPIC:
THE HISTORY OF JEWISH ART

S. Goelman, Lecturer

This slide illustrated course covers an analysis of key works of art reflecting Jewish experience from post-Biblical times to the present. Temple and synagogue architecture and decor, frescoes, mosaics, illuminated manuscripts, coins, seals, ritual ceremonial art, painting and sculpture are considered for their significance, interpretation in the light of the second commandment, their style, and relationship to art by the sourrounding dominant culture. Rembrandt's influence on Jewish artists of the Emancipation, radical changes in attitude in the 19th century and the break with traditional forms in space in the work of contemporary European artists such as Mane, Katz, Marc Chagall, Jacob Epstein and Jacques Lipshitz are but some aspects considered. Holocaust art and work of Soviet Jewish artists and Israeli artists will be discussed in the light of current art trends.

Requirements:

One research take-home project. Any additional work to be decided.

Book List

A detailed bibliography of readings will be given out the first week of class.